

**Soldiers** *Online*







# The Reserve Turns 93

Story by LTC Randy Pullen

*YOUNGEST of the Army's three components, the U.S. Army Reserve turns 93 years old this month.*

COMPARED to the active component's 225-year history and the more than 350-year history of the National Guard, the USAR history book might at first appear to be a slim volume. But its chapters include places like the Meuse-Argonne and Chateau-Thierry, Bataan, the Pointe du Hoc, Utah Beach and Okinawa, the Chosin Reservoir, Chu Lai, Dhahran, Mogadishu and Tuzla.

It's also a story of people — presidents, politicians and business leaders; Medal of Honor winners; and dedicated men and women whose volunteer spirit made the important difference when America needed them.

The Army Reserve traces its beginnings to April 23, 1908, when Congress authorized the Army to establish a reserve corps of medical officers who could be ordered to active duty during time of emergency. A separate act of Congress in 1912 created the Regular Army Reserve, a federal reserve outside the Medical Reserve Corps.

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**1916** U.S. infantrymen advance deeper into Mexico during the 1916 Punitive Expedition. On June 28, the War Department ordered the first mobilization of the Army Reserve as a result of increasing tensions between the United States and Mexico. About 3,000 Army Reservists answered the call to join Regular Army regiments along the border.

The Army Reserve's first call-up came in 1916, when tensions between the United States and Mexico led to BG John J. Pershing's punitive expedition against the Mexican bandit Francisco "Pancho" Villa.

Another important event that year was an act of Congress establishing the Officers Reserve Corps, the Enlisted Reserve Corps and the Reserve Officers Training Corps. Then, in 1917, the original Medical Reserve Corps merged into the Officers Reserve Corps.

By the end of June 1917, two months after America's entry into World War I, there were 21,543 officer Reservists and 35,000 enlisted Reservists. In all, about 170,000 Reservists served in World War I.

The Reserve's contribution to Army medicine, its original specialty, was particularly striking: Reserve medical officers outnumbered Regular Army doctors more than four to one. Of the Army nurses on active duty on April 6, 1917, almost half were Reservists.

Reserve soldiers of 1917 and 1918



**1917** U.S. Army doctors, medics and nurses in action in France during World War I. Army Reservists in the medical field had grown from the first 160 commissioned in June 1908 to 9,223 doctors, dentists and veterinarians by June 1917.



**1933** An Organized Reserve Corps captain checks on progress at the Farnsworth Creed Bridge, a Civilian Conservation Corps project in the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania. More than 30,000 ORC members managed some 2,700 CCC camps during the Great Depression.

served in every division of the American Expeditionary Force, whether those divisions were Regular Army, National Guard or National Army.

Since World War I, Army Reservists — or Organized Reservists as they were called until 1952 — have participated in every major American conflict of the 20th century and provided assistance in times of national and local emergency.

During the Great Depression, Army Reservists comprised the majority of officers running Civilian

Conservation Corps camps, an important New Deal program that provided much-needed jobs for unemployed young men and helped build and improve many of the facilities found in our National Parks today.

As World War II neared, Reservists were mobilized to help build and train the huge Army necessary to counter the threat of German and Japanese aggression. Almost one of every four Army officers — more than 200,000 of the 900,000

Army officers serving during the war — was a Reservist.

Army Reservists of World War II included well-known heroes such as Medal of Honor winners BG Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the first general to land on a Normandy beach on D-Day; and LTC Jimmy Doolittle, who led the first air strike against the Japanese mainland.

Other famous Army Reservists are LTC Strom Thurmond, who landed a glider in Normandy with the 82nd Airborne Division, then an Organized

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Reserve division; and LTC James Earl Rudder, who led Rudder's Rangers up the Pointe du Hoc cliffs on D-Day.

Reservists were again called to duty in 1950, when the Cold War flashed hot on the Korean Peninsula, and almost a quarter-million men and women served in Korea, at home or deployed to other critical locations around the world.

Among the Reserve's Korean War Medal of Honor recipients is SSG Hiroshi Miyamura, who was captured and spent two years in a Chinese POW camp after he covered his soldiers' withdrawal when his company was overrun. CPT Raymond Harvey, who led his company in the capture of a heavily fortified enemy position, had the distinction of receiving his Medal of Honor from Army Reservist and President Harry S. Truman. A World War I veteran who had served in the

National Guard, Truman joined the Organized Reserve in 1920, rose to the rank of colonel and retired from the Army Reserve in 1953.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy called some 60,000 Army Reservists to active duty when the Cold War again threatened to ignite in Berlin. President Lyndon B. Johnson opted not to call up a large Reserve force during the Vietnam War, but thousands of individual Army Reservists did serve in Vietnam, as did 35 USAR units deployed there in 1968.

Reservists also assisted in the aftermath of the 1983 Grenada and 1989 Panama operations.

During the crisis in the Persian Gulf in 1990-1991, more than 84,000 USAR soldiers participated, moving men and equipment to the Gulf during Operation Desert Shield and providing combat support and combat service support in the combat zone during Operation Desert Storm.

Among the hardest hit units of the war was the USAR's 14th Quartermaster Detachment, victim of a SCUD missile attack on Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 25, 1991. Thirteen men and women were killed and another 43 soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Since 1991 the USAR has been constantly active in combat, humanitarian and peacekeeping operations around the world. Reserve soldiers were in northern Iraq following the Gulf War,



**1944** Chow time in the Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge for soldiers of the 87th Infantry Division (Organized Reserve). All 27 of the pre-war OR divisions were mobilized during World War II, all but one fought in combat.



**1944** BG Theodore Roosevelt Jr., was one of the Army Reserve's greatest heroes. A combat veteran of both World Wars, he earned every combat decoration possible for a ground soldier, to include the Medal of Honor.



**1953** SSG Hiroshi Miyamura, formerly of the Enlisted Reserve Corps, is presented the Medal of Honor by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on October 27.

## Honor Roll

- **BG Theodore Roosevelt Jr.** — Saw combat service in both World Wars, earning every combat decoration available to a U.S. ground soldier. Received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions at Utah Beach on June 6, 1944.
- **COL Harry S. Truman** — Saw combat service in World War I as a field artillery battery commander. Member of the Army Reserve from 1920 to 1953, rising to the rank of colonel. U.S. president from 1945 to 1953.
- **LTC James Earl Rudder** — Commanded "Rudder's Rangers" in the assault up the Pointe du Hoc cliffs on D-Day in 1944, for which he received the Distinguished Service Cross. Later commanded the 109th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Inf. Division during the Battle of the Bulge. Rose to the rank of major general in the USAR.
- **LTC Strom Thurmond** — Volunteered to accompany the 82nd Airborne Div. into Normandy, landing a glider full of troops near Ste. Mere Eglise. Received the Bronze Star Medal for his actions in Normandy. Eventually rose to the rank of major general in the USAR. Became governor of South Carolina and has been a U.S. Senator from South Carolina since 1954. He is the longest-serving senator in U.S. history.
- **LTC Henry Cabot Lodge** — Left the U.S. Senate to serve in North Africa, Normandy and Italy during World War II. Eventually rose to the rank of major general in the USAR. Returned to the Senate after the war and later became U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, South Vietnam and West Germany.
- **LTC Jimmy Doolittle** — Led the Doolittle raid against Japan in April 1942, for which he received the Medal of Honor. Commanded the Eighth Air Force during World War II and ended the war as a lieutenant general.
- **CPT Eddie Rickenbacker** — Named America's "Ace of Aces" during World War I for shooting down 22 enemy planes and four observation balloons. Received the Medal of Honor, seven Distinguished Service Crosses, the French Legion of Honor and two Croix de Guerre with Palm.
- **CPT Charles Lindbergh** — First man to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in May 1927. Congress awarded him the Medal of Honor for this achievement.
- **CPT Henry Kissinger** — World War II veteran and counter-intelligence corps agent. Became U.S. national security advisor, U.S. secretary of state and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- **CPT Ronald Reagan** — Pre-World War II member of Cavalry Officers Reserve Corps who was called to active duty during World War II. U.S. president from 1981 to 1989.
- **CPL Desmond Doss** — Received the Medal of Honor for his actions as a combat medic in the 77th Inf. Div. on Okinawa during World War II.
- **SSG Hiroshi Miyamura** — For his actions the night of April 24-25, 1951, this Enlisted Reserve Corps NCO was awarded the Medal of Honor. Wounded and captured, news of his receiving the Medal of Honor was withheld until he was released from a Chinese POW camp in August 1953.



**[1968]** This historical painting depicts soldiers of the 319th Transportation Company from Augusta, Ga., returning fire during a Viet Cong ambush near the Cambodian border. The 319th was one of 35 USAR units deployed to Vietnam in 1968.



**[1983]** Soldiers from the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, Columbia, S.C., pose with Grenadian children who hold up schoolbooks donated by the United States. The unit arranged for the collection and shipment to Grenada of 20,000 pounds of textbooks following Operation Urgent Fury in 1983.



**[1992]** Troops from the 3rd Infantry Division board a 747 to return to Germany following the Gulf War. Army Reserve power projection units are frequently the first in and the last to leave during a deployment.

they faced violence and despair in Somalia from 1992 to 1994, and they went into Haiti in 1995 to help restore democracy there. And more than 13,000 Reservists have served in Bosnia.

In 1999, with their active duty and National Guard counterparts, USAR soldiers conducted refugee relief at Fort Dix, N.J., assisting more than 4,000 men, women and children displaced from their homes in Kosovo. And Army Reservists took part in peacekeeping operations in East Timor and Kosovo, and deployed to Central America to help people recover from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.



**[1995 to present]** SSG Norman Holland, an Army Reservist serving in Bosnia, delivers a box of women's clothing to the local Red Cross facility. Since 1995, more than 13,000 USAR soldiers have been mobilized and deployed to Europe for Operations Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard and Joint Forge.

Through the course of the 20th century the USAR was often in transformation, going from a “for emergency use only” force that was in many ways just a smaller version of the active Army, to an essential force, globally deployed and focused on combat support, combat service support and training.

Much of the current Army’s critical support capabilities are exclusively or primarily in the Army Reserve. The USAR has all of the Army’s training divisions, railway units, enemy prisoner of war brigades and chemical brigades. It has most of the Army’s civil affairs, psychological operations, medical and transportation units, and a large portion of its public affairs, engineer and power-projection assets.

It has come a long way since the first 160 members of the Medical Reserve Corps were commissioned in 1908. Now there are more than 205,000 members of the Selected Reserve in 1,600 USAR units located in 1,100 Army Reserve Centers all across America, plus some 180,000 more soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve.

But those original 160 soldiers, today’s Reservists and all those who served in between are alike in one way: they volunteered to be, in Winston Churchill’s phrase, “twice the citizen,” to contribute their civilian- and military-acquired skills and expertise when called upon by the Army and the nation. □

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